

Claim Amendments

Claim 1 (Withdrawn) A method for receiving payment for postage for a parcel by a delivery system operator from a customer, comprising:

- receiving payment from the customer for a first postage value;
- receiving the parcel for delivery, the parcel including a machine-readable postage indicia indicating the amount of the received payment;
- determining parcel attributes; calculating a determined postage value for the parcel based on the determined parcel attributes;
- determining the first postage value from the indicia; and
- transmitting a postage payment adjustment amount based on a comparison between the first postage value and the determined postage value.

Claim 2 (Withdrawn) The method of claim 1 wherein the payment is received from the customer over a network.

Claim 3 (Withdrawn) The method of claim 2 wherein the payment is received by the delivery system operator over the Internet.

Claim 4 (Withdrawn) The method of claim 1 wherein the machine-readable postage indicia is one of a bar code and an image indicating an account from which delivery payment has been made.

Claim 5 (Withdrawn) The method of claim 1 wherein adjusting the payment further comprises:

requesting additional payment when the determined postage value is greater than the first postage value.

Claim 6 (Withdrawn) The method of claim 1 wherein adjusting the payment further comprises:

generating a credit when the determined postage value is less than the first postage value.

Claim 7 (Withdrawn) The method of claim 1 wherein the parcel is at least one of the following: a mailpiece, a package, an oversized package, a United States Postal Service Priority Mail package, and a United States Postal Service Express Mail Package.

Claim 8 (Withdrawn) The method of claim 1 wherein transmitting a postage payment adjustment amount comprises transmitting data by at least one of regular mail, e-mail, facsimile, internet, and an interactive voice response system.

Claim 9 (Withdrawn) A system for receiving payment for postage for a parcel by a delivery system operator from a customer, comprising:

a payment receiving component to receive payment from the customer for a first postage value;

a parcel receiving component to receive the parcel for delivery, the parcel including a machine-readable postage indicia indicating the amount of the received payment;

a parcel determining component to determine parcel attributes; a calculating component to calculate a determined postage value for the parcel based on the determined parcel attributes;

a postage determining component to determine the first postage value from the indicia;

and

a transmitting component to transmit a postage payment adjustment amount based on a comparison between the first postage value and the determined postage value.

Claim 10 (Withdrawn) The system of claim 9 wherein the payment receiving component receives payment from the customer over a network.

Claim 11 (Withdrawn) The system of claim 10 wherein the payment receiving component receives payment by the delivery system operator over the Internet.

Claim 12 (Withdrawn) The system of claim 9 wherein the machine-readable postage indicia is one of a bar code and an image indicating an account from which delivery payment has been made.

Claim 13 (Withdrawn) The system of claim 9 wherein adjusting the payment further comprises: a requesting component to request additional payment when the determined postage value is greater than the first postage value.

Claim 14 (Withdrawn) The system of claim 9 wherein adjusting the payment further comprises: a generating component to generate a credit when the determined postage value is less than the first postage value.

Claim 15 (Withdrawn) The system of claim 9 wherein the parcel is at least one of the following: a mailpiece, a package, an oversized package, a United States Postal Service Priority Mail package, and a United States Postal Service Express Mail Package.

Claim 16 (Withdrawn) The system of claim 9 wherein the transmitting component to transmit a postage payment adjustment amount comprises transmitting data by at least one of regular mail, e-mail, facsimile, Internet, and an interactive voice response system.

Claim 17 (Withdrawn) A system for receiving payment for postage for a parcel by a delivery system operator from a customer, comprising:

means for receiving payment from the customer for a first postage value;

means for receiving the parcel for delivery, the parcel including a machine-readable postage indicia indicating the amount of the received payment;

means for determining parcel attributes; means for calculating a determined postage value for the parcel based on the determined parcel attributes; means for determining the first postage value from the indicia; and

means for transmitting a postage payment adjustment amount based on a comparison between the first postage value and the determined postage value.

Claim 18 (Withdrawn) The system of claim 17 wherein the means for receiving payment is from the customer over a network.

Claim 19 (Withdrawn) The system of claim 18 wherein the means for receiving payment is by the delivery system operator over the Internet.

Claim 20 (Withdrawn) The system of claim 17 wherein the machine-readable postage indicia is one of a bar code and an image indicating an account from which delivery payment has been made.

Claim 21 (Withdrawn) The system of claim 17 wherein the means for adjusting the payment further comprises: means for requesting additional payment when the determined postage value is greater than the first postage value.

Claim 22 (Withdrawn) The system of claim 17 wherein the means for adjusting the payment further comprises: means for generating a credit when the determined postage value is less than the first postage value.

Claim 23 (Withdrawn) The system of claim 17 wherein the parcel is at least one of the following: a mailpiece, a package, an oversized package, a United States Postal Service Priority Mail package, and a United States Postal Service Express Mail Package.

Claim 24 (Withdrawn) The system of claim 17 wherein the means for transmitting a postage payment adjustment amount comprises transmitting data by at least one of regular mail, e-mail, facsimile, Internet, and an interactive voice response system.

Claim 25 (Withdrawn) A computer-readable medium containing instructions for controlling a data processing system to perform a method for receiving payment for postage for a parcel by a delivery system operator from a customer, the method comprising the steps of:

- receiving payment from the customer for a first postage value;
- receiving the parcel for delivery, the parcel including a machine-readable postage indicia indicating the amount of the received payment;
- determining parcel attributes;
- calculating a determined postage value for the parcel based on the determined parcel attributes; determining the first postage value from the indicia; and
- transmitting a postage payment adjustment amount based on a comparison between the first postage value and the determined postage value.

Claim 26 (Withdrawn) The computer-readable medium of claim 25 wherein the payment is received from the customer over a network.

Claim 27 (Withdrawn) The computer-readable medium of claim 26 wherein the payment is received by the delivery system operator over the Internet.

Claim 28 (Withdrawn) The computer-readable medium of claim 25 wherein the machine-readable postage indicia is one of a bar code and an image indicating an account from which delivery payment has been made.

Claim 29 (Withdrawn) The computer-readable medium of claim 25 wherein adjusting the payment further comprises: requesting additional payment when the determined postage value is greater than the first postage value.

Claim 30 (Withdrawn) The computer-readable medium of claim 25 wherein adjusting the payment further comprises: generating a credit when the determined postage value is less than the first postage value.

Claim 31 (Withdrawn) The computer-readable medium of claim 25 wherein the parcel is at least one of the following: a mailpiece, a package, an oversized package, a United States Postal Service Priority Mail package, and a United States Postal Service Express Mail Package.

Claim 32 (Withdrawn) The computer-readable medium of claim 25 wherein transmitting a postage payment adjustment amount comprises transmitting data by at least one of regular mail, e-mail, facsimile, Internet, and an interactive voice response system.

Claim 33 (Currently Amended) On a point of service in a mail stream, a[[A]] computer-implemented method for receiving payment for postage by a delivery system operator from a customer, the method comprising:

receiving from the customer mailing information for a parcel, the mailing information comprising customer-determined attributes of the parcel, the customer-identified attributes comprising at least one of height, length, and thickness of the parcel;

calculating a first postage value utilizing a computer based on the customer-determined attributes;

transmitting data to the customer utilizing a computer to permit printing by the customer of a mailing label for the parcel, the mailing label including an indication of the first postage value;

charging a customer account utilizing a computer for the first postage value;

determining attributes of the parcel including at least one of height, length, and thickness of the parcel by the delivery system operator utilizing a computer after the parcel is received by the delivery system operator for delivery;

calculating a second postage value for the parcel utilizing a computer based on the operator-determined attributes; [[and]]

transmitting a postage payment adjustment amount to the customer account utilizing a computer based on a comparison between the first and second postage values, wherein transmitting the postage payment adjustment amount further comprises:

requesting additional payment when the second postage value is greater than the first postage value[[, and]]

generating a credit when the second postage value is less than the first postage value; and[[.]]
delivering the parcel with the mailing label indicating the first postage value without referencing the postage payment adjustment amount.

Claim 34 (Original) The method of claim 33 wherein the mailing information is received from the customer over a network.

Claim 35 (Original) The method of claim 34 wherein the mailing information is received by the delivery system operator over the Internet.

Claim 36 (Original) The method of claim 33 wherein the customer-determined attributes include at least one of height, length, weight, thickness, and weight of the parcel.

Claim 37 (Original) The method of claim 36 wherein the mailing information comprises at least one of return address information, destination address information, and payment information.

Claim 38 (Original) The method of claim 33 wherein the mailing information comprises at least one of return address information, destination address information, and payment information.

Claim 39 (Original) The method of claim 33 further comprising storing the mailing information.

Claim 40 (Original) The method of claim 33 wherein the customer account is a credit card account.

Claim 41 (Original) The method of claim 33 wherein the mailing label further comprises a unique identification code for the parcel.

Claim 42 (Previously Presented) The method of claim 33 wherein obtaining operator-determined attributes further comprise a weight of the parcel, and wherein determining operator-determined attributes comprises at least one of weighing the parcel, capturing an image of the parcel, and sensing physical dimensions of the parcel.

Claims 43-44 (Cancelled).

Claim 45 (Original) The method of claim 33 wherein the indication of the first postage value is at least one of a bar code, an image indicating an account from which delivery payment has been made, and a postage stamp.

Claim 46 (Original) The method of claim 33 wherein the parcel is at least one of the following: a mailpiece, a package, an oversized package, a United States Postal Service Priority Mail package, and a United States Postal Service Express Mail Package.

Claim 47 (Original) The method of claim 33 wherein transmitting a postage payment adjustment amount comprises transmitting data by at least one of regular mail, e-mail, facsimile, internet, and an interactive voice response system.

Claim 48 (Withdrawn) A method for correcting a postage value, comprising:
storing a first postage value derived from customer-determined attributes of a parcel;
receiving payment for the first postage value;
receiving the parcel at a delivery system operator;
determining attributes of the parcel by the delivery system operator to generate a second postage value;
comparing the first and second postage values; and
if the first postage value is greater than the second postage value, providing a credit to the customer; and
if the second postage value is less than the first postage value, generating a charge to the customer.

Claim 49 (Currently amended) A system for receiving payment for postage by a delivery service operator from a customer, the system comprising:

an interface to receive from the customer mailing information for a parcel, the mailing information comprising customer-determined attributes of the parcel, the customer-determined attributes comprising at least one of height, length, and thickness of the parcel;

a first payment process to calculate a first postage value based on the customer-determined attributes and charge a customer account for the first postage value;

a delivery component to transmit data to the customer to permit printing by the customer of a mailing label for the parcel, the mailing label including an indication of the first postage value;

a parcel processor to determine attributes of the parcel including at least one of height, length, and thickness of the parcel by the delivery system operator after the parcel is received by the delivery system operator for delivery; [[and]]

a second payment processor to calculate a second postage value for the parcel based on the operator-determined attributes and transmit a postage payment adjustment amount to the customer account based on a comparison between the first and second postage values, wherein the second payment processor further comprises:

a requesting component to request additional payment when the second postage value is greater than the first postage value;[[, and]]

a generating component to generate a credit when the second postage value is less than the first postage value; and[[.]]

a delivery processor to send the parcel with the mailing label indicating the first postage value without referencing the postage payment adjustment amount.

Claim 50 (Previously Presented) The system of claim 49 wherein the interface is a network interface component to receive mailing information from the customer over a network.

Claim 51 (Previously Presented) The system of claim 50 wherein the interface is a network interface component to receive mailing information by the delivery system operator over the Internet.

Claim 52 (Previously Presented) The system of claim 49 wherein the customer-determined attributes further comprise a weight of the parcel.

Claim 53 (Original) The system of claim 52 wherein the mailing information comprises at least one of return address information, destination address information, and payment information.

Claim 54 (Original) The system of claim 49 wherein the mailing information comprises at least one of return address information, destination address information, and payment information.

Claim 55 (Previously Presented) The system of claim 49 further comprising a data storage to store the mailing information.

Claim 56 (Original) The system of claim 49 wherein the customer account is a credit card account.

Claim 57 (Original) The system of claim 49 wherein the mailing label further comprises a unique identification code for the parcel.

Claim 58 (Previously Presented) The system of claim 49 wherein the operator-determined attributes further comprise a weight of the parcel, and wherein the parcel processor comprises at least one of a weight component to weight the parcel, a component to capture an image of the parcel, and a sensing component to sense physical dimensions of the parcel.

Claims 59-60 (Cancelled)

Claim 61 (Original) The system of claim 49 wherein the indication of the first postage value is at least one of a bar code, an image indicating an account from which delivery payment has been made, and a postage stamp.

Claim 62 (Original) The system of claim 49 wherein the parcel is at least one of the following: a mailpiece, a package, an oversized package, a United States Postal Service Priority Mail package, and a United States Postal Service Express Mail Package.

Claim 63 (Previously Presented) The system of claim 49 wherein the second payment processor comprises a transmitting component to transmit data by at least one of regular mail, e-mail, facsimile, internet, and an interactive voice response system.

Claim 64 (Withdrawn) A system for correcting a postage value, comprising:

- a first component to store a first postage value derived from customer-determined attributes of a parcel;
- a second component to receive payment for the first postage value;
- a third component to receive the parcel at a delivery-system operator;
- a fourth component to determine attributes of the parcel by the delivery system operator to generate a second postage value;
- a fifth component to compare the first and second postage values; and

if the first postage value is greater than the second postage value, providing a credit to the customer; and

if the second postage value is less than the first postage value, generating a charge to the customer.

Claims 65-79 (Cancelled)

Claim 80 (Withdrawn) The system for correcting a postage value, comprising:

means for storing a first postage value derived from customer-determined attributes of a parcel;

means for receiving payment for the first postage value;

means for receiving the parcel at a delivery-system operator;

means for determining attributes of the parcel by the delivery system operator to generate a second postage value; and

means for comparing the first and second postage values for providing a credit to the customer if the first postage value is greater than the second postage value and generating a charge to the customer if the second postage value is less than the first postage value.

Claim 81 (Currently amended) A computer-readable storage medium containing instructions for controlling a data processing system to perform a method for receiving payment for postage by a delivery system operator from a customer, the method comprising the steps of:

calculating a first postage value based on customer-determined attributes contained in mailing information for a parcel received from the customer, the customer-determined attributes comprising at least one of height, length, and thickness of the parcel;

transmitting data to the customer to permit printing by the customer of a mailing label for the parcel, the mailing label including an indication of the first postage value;

charging a customer account for the first postage value;

calculating a second postage value for the parcel based on attributes of the parcel including at least one of height, length, and thickness of the parcel determined by the delivery system operator after the parcel is received by the delivery system operator for delivery; [[and]]

transmitting a postage payment adjustment amount to the customer account based on a comparison between the first and second postage values, wherein transmitting the postage payment adjustment amount further comprises:

requesting additional payment when the second postage value is greater than the first postage value;[[, and]]

generating a credit when the second postage value is less than the first postage value; and[[.]]

delivering the parcel with the mailing label indicating the first postage value without referencing the postage payment adjustment amount.

Claim 82 (Original) The computer-readable medium of claim 81 wherein the mailing information is received from the customer over a network.

Claim 83 (Original) The computer-readable medium of claim 81 wherein the mailing information is received by the delivery system operator over the Internet.

Claim 84 (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 81 wherein the customer-determined attributes further comprise a weight of the parcel.

Claim 85 (Original) The computer-readable medium of claim 81 wherein the mailing information comprises at least one of return address information, destination address information, and payment information.

Claim 86 (Original) The computer-readable medium of claim 81 wherein the mailing information comprises at least one of return address information, destination address information, and payment information.

Claim 87 (Original) The computer-readable medium of claim 81 wherein the customer account is a credit card account.

Claim 88 (Original) The computer-readable medium of claim 81 wherein the mailing label further comprises a unique identification code for the parcel.

Claim 89 (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 81 wherein the operator-determined attributes further comprise a weight of the parcel, and wherein the operator-determined attributes are determined by at least one of weighing the parcel, capturing an image of the parcel, and sensing physical dimensions of the parcel.

Claims 90-91 (Cancelled)

Claim 92 (Original) The computer-readable medium of claim 81 wherein the indication of the first postage value is at least one of a bar code, an image indicating an account from which delivery payment has been made, and a postage stamp.

Claim 93 (Original) The computer-readable medium of claim 81 wherein in the parcel is at least one of the following: a mailpiece, a package, an oversized package, a United States Postal Service Priority Mail package, and a United States Postal Service Express Mail Package.

Claim 94 (Original) The computer-readable medium of claim 81 wherein transmitting a postage payment adjustment amount comprises transmitting data by at least one of regular mail, e-mail, facsimile, internet, and an interactive voice response system.

Claim 95 (Withdrawn) A computer-readable medium containing instructions for controlling a data processing system to perform a method for correcting a postage value, said method comprising the steps of:

 storing a first postage value derived from customer-determined attributes of a parcel;
 receiving payment for the first postage value;
 generating a second postage value based on attributes of the parcel determined by the delivery system operator;
 comparing the first and second postage values;
 providing a credit to the customer if the first postage value is greater than the second postage value; and
 generating a charge to the customer if the second postage value is less than the first postage value.

Claim 96 (Withdrawn) A system for correcting a postage value, comprising:

a memory having program instructions; and

a processor responsive to the program instructions to:

store a first postage value derived from customer-determined attributes of a parcel; receive payment for the first postage value; generate a second postage value based on attributes of the parcel determined by the delivery system operator; compare the first and second postage values; provide a credit to the customer if the first postage value is greater than the second postage value; and generate a charge to the customer if the second postage value is less than the first postage value.